

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KIGALI 287

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CG, RW, BY

SUBJECT: TRIPARTITE: MEETING FONMINS RWANDA, ZAIRE, BURUNDI

REF: BUJUMBURA 285 (NOTAL)

1. BEGIN SUMMARY - TRIPARTITE FONMINS AGREE ON MECHANISM FOR ADVANCE CONSULTATION ON FOREIGN POLICY MATTERS. ZAIRE AND RWANDAN DELS SURPRISED BY BURUNDI COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE. END SUMMARY

2. ADVANCE CONSULTATIONS - FONMINS ZAIRE, BURUNDI AND RWANDA MET KIGALI APRIL 13-14 IN REGULAR "TRIPARTITE" MEETING. AS ENVISAGED REFTTEL, MOST IMPORTANT ITEM ON AGENDA WAS MECHANISM FOR ADVANCE CONSULTATION FOREIGN POLICY MATTERS FOLLOWING FROM BURUNDI'S EARLY RECOGNITION MPLA AND ARAB SAHARAN REPUBLIC. TRIPARTITE COMMUNIQUE AND ASSOCIATED PROTOCOL CREATE PERMANENT COMMISSION ON CONSULTATION COMPOSED OF THREE FONMINS WITH PRESIDENCY BEING ROTATED ON ANNUAL BASIS (GOR FONMIN NAMED CURRENT PRESIDENT), WHICH WILL SEEK "...TO HARMONIZE, ON BOTH REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SCALE, THE POSITIONS OF THE THREE COUNTRIES IN REGARD TO QUESTIONS THAT INTEREST THEM."

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3. COMMUNIQUE ALSO ANNOUNCES TRIPARTITE SUMMIT BE HELD KIGALI AT END AUGUST 1976 FOR SIGNATURE OF GREAT LAKES COMMUNITY CONVENTION (75 KIGALI 386) AND THAT SECURITY CHIEFS (CONCERNED PRIMARILY WITH MUTUAL REFUGEE PROBLEMS) MEET ON TRIMESTRIAL BASIS. MEETING SKED FOR ECONOMIC EXPERTS ALSO OUTLINED.

4. TANZANIA - IN INTERESTING HISTORIC REFERENCE, COMMUNIQUE REFERS TO TANZANIA IN CONTEXT INTEREST TRIPARTITE STATES IN RESOLVING LONG-STANDING PROBLEM OF "BELBASES." IT TURNS OUT THIS PHRASE REFERS TO TWO PORT QUAYS IN DAR ES SALAAM WHICH WERE FINANCED BY UNION MINIERE AND BELGIAN GOVT PRIOR TANZANIAN INDEPENDENCE AND SUBSEQUENTLY NATIONALIZED. GOT REPORTEDLY PROMISED COMPENSATION LUT HAS NEVER DONE SO. TRIPARTITE STATES NOW WISH RESOLVE CLAIMS BY FAVORABLE GOT PORT TARIFFS, GUARANTEED ACCESS PRIVILEGES, ETC. HEIGHTENED TRIPARTITE INTEREST IS DIRECT RESULT OF SUPPLY PROBLEM BEING FACED BY ALL THREE STATES BECAUSE OF KENYAN/UGANDAN BORDER PROBLEMS.

5. COMMENT - EMB UNDERSTANDS GOZ AND GOR PARTICIPANTS PRIVATELY "ASTOUNDED" AT GOB COOPERATIVE TURN-ABOUT FROM RIGID STANCES ADOPTED GOB FONMIN AT PREVIOUS TRIPARTITES HELD RECENTLY KIGALI AND KISANGANI. GOB FONMIN REPORTEDLY ACCEPTED ALL GOZ COMMENTS AND COMMUNIQUE DRAFTS WITH ALACRITY. GOZ-GOR SPECULATION IS THAT CHANGE DUE TO (A) GOB DISENCHANTMENT WITH UNFULFILLED ARAB JKLIBYAN) AID PROMISES AND/OR (B) REFLECES POSSIBLE INTERNAL POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS PRES MICOMBERO. FRITTS

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